

**Remark**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 3, 5, 14, 19, 21 and 25 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 1-27 are present for examination.

**Claim Objections*****Claim 3, 5, 19, and 21***

Applicants acknowledge the error in designating the dependencies for this claim. The interpretation suggested by the Examiner is appropriate and the claims have been amended accordingly.

**35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection*****Leung et al.***

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Leung et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,005,870 ("Leung"). Claim 14 has been clarified to emphasize that the claimed method relates to an apparatus that is in communication with a telephone switch. In addition, the claim recites that the call is received at an automated attendant port of that apparatus. In Leung, the entire device is a single switch 300, including a voice prompt and response processor 325, a call treatment processor, a subscriber data memory 312 and a voicemail subsystem 371. As a result, calls are not received from a switch at an automated attendant port. The calls remain at the switch. Leung does discuss sending calls from the switch to other equipment (Col. 11, lines 1-30), however, there is no suggestion that

a call handle is also sent or that the destination systems retrieve and use any stored caller information in handling the call after it is sent.

### 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

#### *Maloney et al.*

The Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Maloney et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,555,299 ("Maloney"). Claim 25 has been amended to incorporate terminology similar to that of Claim 18, which has been indicated as allowable.

### Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**  
**Insertions are underlined, deletions are stricken.**

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the tone sequence is a DTMF tone sequence transmitted to the port over the same transmission line as the incoming call.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4~~1~~, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to a switch from which the incoming call was received.

14. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
  
an automated attendant port to receive an incoming call from a telephone switch;  
  
an automated attendant port to receive a call handle associated with the incoming call from the telephone switch;  
  
a memory containing caller information associated with call handles; and  
  
a processor to apply the call handle to retrieve caller information and use the retrieved caller information to handle the call if caller information associated with the call handle is found.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 18~~17~~, wherein the tone sequence is a DTMF tone sequence transmitted to the call handling system port over the same transmission line as the incoming call.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20~~17~~, wherein the digital interface comprises a digital backplane connection to the call handling system.

25. (Amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus comprising:

a port to receive an incoming call;

a call handle generator to generate a call handle for the incoming call as a set of in-band signaling tones;

a switching network to route the incoming call from the receiving port to a port of a call handling system; and

an interface to send the generated call handle as in-band signaling tones to the port of the call handling system in association with the routed call.